For Adrienne

(draft 2) July 1, 2009

The tour begins at the bottom of the stairs

Exhibit one: Pink Flip Flops

Curled and worn, her footprints tattooed on their surface

*They took her to Fenway Park, college, chemo, and even church once*

The guide explains

*Moving up the stairs on your left you will a painting she did as a child*

Fingerpaints, you think

Wavy yellow house, three stick figure girls in skirts,

a mom and very tall dad

*Next stop, is the bathroom she shared with her sisters*

You see her toothbrush

The bristles graze your hand—soft, yet worn

Why didn’t someone throw this away yet?

Is that her wrinkled towel on the rack?

What about the strand of hair

You think you see in the drain.

*The highlight of the tour…*

The tour moves on and you scurry to catch up

*She slept here, everything has been preserved as it actually was left.*

*Amazing! Please do not cross the purple velvet rope*

But you want to race across the rope

Rip it to shreds, bury your face in her laundry

Burrow under her sheets and nuzzle your cheek into her pillow